## Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

### Basic Course Information

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<td>1.</td>
<td>Awarding Institution:</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>School/Campus:</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Normal Duration:</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>UCAS Code:</td>
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### Overview and general educational aims of the course

Project Management of construction projects includes the entire process from inception to completion. This often involves a close working relation between the project manager and the client. This course aims to provide you with a framework for understanding project management in the construction industry and in particular the role of the construction project manager and the associated needs of clients. Although many generic aspects of project management will be explored a key focus will be placed on the construction industry.

### The course aims to:

- Develop your knowledge, critical awareness, understanding and application of project management principles and processes applied to construction projects. This involves a critical understanding of the role of project managers from the inception to completion of construction projects to enhance your employability prospects in this role.

- Develop, extend and apply your capabilities in research and research methods, to enable you to create research methodologies, utilise research skills and apply them to the management of projects, including aspects of innovation and continuous improvement and to write a master’s level dissertation and a research paper.

- Develop your critical understanding, knowledge and awareness of professionalism within the role of a project manager. This will include studying key subjects such as: contemporary construction themes and approaches, Business case appraisal and procurement, collaborative international working, “Lean working”, project planning, design and planning appreciation, health and safety, sustainability, law, dispute resolution and social responsibility within the construction project management industry.

- Develop your skills using e-based technologies.
### Course outcomes
Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.

#### Knowledge and understanding
By the end of the course you should be able to:

- **Discuss, analyse and critically evaluate** key contemporary themes in the construction industry, including sustainability and modern methods of working such as BIM. (B1) (B2)

- **Advise, in a systematic and creative way,** clients on the viability and risk of business cases and selection of procurement strategies to achieve successful project outcomes. (B1 - implicit) (B2)

- **Discuss, critically evaluate and apply** legal rights and responsibilities associated with construction projects including contracts, professional negligence and dispute resolution. This will also include health and safety legal compliance and audit. (B1 implicit but not health and safety) (B2 but not health and safety)

- **Discuss, critically evaluate, analyse and apply**, collaborative international and Lean working, project planning, and social responsibility within the construction industry to **solve** complex and uncertain construction **problems** in an innovating and creative manner. (B1)

- **Critically discuss, analyse and critically evaluate solutions** in the design, planning, estimating and costing of construction projects. This will also include life cycle costing, finance and business strategies.

- **Critically discuss, analyse and critically evaluate** organisational structures, and systems necessary to achieve successful project outcomes including: business frameworks and the management and leadership of people and projects. (B1) (B2)

- **Discuss, critically evaluate and apply** key management principles and processes required to successful deliver construction projects in a national and international (global) business environment. (B1) (B2)

- **Conduct research** into the project management discipline in a manner that reflects a deep and critical understanding of current scholarship and research. This will include research processes and techniques and the application of critical thinking to produce a dissertation and a research paper. (B1)

#### Skills, qualities and attributes
By the end of the course you should be able to:
• **Data Collection**: Collect and integrate information and data from various sources. (B1)(B2)

• **Analysis**: Analyse, evaluate and interpret complex factual information and relevant issues in a systematic, critical and creative manner, and evaluate alternative processes and/or measure against relative criteria; making logical recommendations based on analysis, information and circumstances. (B1) (B2)

• **Problem solving skills**: Identify, define, critically evaluate and propose solutions to complex problems, including generation of new ideas, innovations, and concepts where appropriate. (B1)

• **Communication skills**: Effectively communicate information, ideas and concepts in a clear and articulate style, including the utilisation of information technologies and systems where appropriate. (B1)

• **Interpersonal and team-working skills**: Develop and utilise personal, skills and competencies to enable effective individual and team working, applying ethical and professional values to the work environment. (B1)

**Independent and research skills**: Apply study and research skills and act autonomously in planning, organising and executing your personal academic and professional development. (B1)

**Information technology skills**: Use in a critical, creative and innovative way a range of contemporary electronic methods and complex subject specific specialist software to communication nationally and internationally. (B1) (B2)

### 8. Teaching and learning methods

The course will be delivered entirely on-line.

A teaching and learning strategy has been adopted that allows for a flexible approach to the communication of course material and facilitates a balance of active and passive learning experiences.

The main teaching and learning methods include: on-line learning rooms (a course room and a module room), learning manuals, portfolios, quizzes, peer review, discussion boards, blogs, short burst videos, quick poll and surveys, expert interviews, case studies, Wikis, role play, directed reading, exercises, presentations, group
activities, e-data bases and tutorial support delivered using internet-based technologies.

key information will also be supplied by course and module handbooks.

Self-assessment exercises form an integral and essential part of the learning process and provide formative feedback throughout the module – see assessment details for further information.

Module material is broken down into weekly tasks. Over the 8 week module period this is typically 12.5 hours per week (12.5 x 8 = 100 hours)

The breakdown between directed and independent reading will vary according to module content demands. Although some module specifications have what might appear to be a long list of books it is likely that only selected sections will be required reading and this will be directed by the module tutor.

However, an indicative typical approach is likely to be:

**Weekly breakdown**

4 hours directed learning
2 hours directed reading
6.5 hours independent reading

### 9. Assessment methods

**Assessment Strategy:**

An assessment strategy has been adopted that allows for a flexible range of assessment methods that range from traditional methods to modern mechanisms such as discussion boards. Each module adopts an individual approach to allow for effective critical alignment.

As well as the usual summative assessment each module adopts a process of formative assessment to provide you with feedback before submitting summative work.

Typically, this could include completing a series of exercises, completing a journal or contributing to a discussion board debate.

Typically you will be provided with at least 1 formative assessment for each summative submission.
Course outcomes will be assessed but not necessarily in each and every module.

Below are a series of assessment methods that may be used to assess your achievement:

- Independent Written assignments and reports. This more traditional approach of essays, reports and portfolios will be used to assess your knowledge and understanding of some of the key concepts and practices within the construction project management field. Scenarios may also be used as part of this traditional approach.
- Video presentations will be used to test your ability to synthesise arguments/ideas and present them in a highly condensed, accessible form that include a visual and oral dimension.
- Discussion boards are viewed as an interactive way of assessing the quality of your contribution to discussions and debates.
- Wikis will be used to assess your ability to engage with core material and present in an accessible and modern medium.
- Group work will be used to assess your ability to work in teams to produce effective outcomes.
- Peer review is seen as a way of assessing your interactivity with other students and will include a reflective practice element.
- Case studies and projects will be used to assess integrated assimilation of a range of course subject areas.
- Quizzes and CMAs will be used for assessment of basic information.
- On-line examinations are seen as a way of assessing your responses to key topics in a timed environment.

The above is not an exhaustive list and as new methods of e-assessment develop they will be used in accordance with our assessment strategy.

10. **Course structure and curriculum**

The course adopts a flexible study period ranging from 2.5 to 5 years duration, with the possibility of extending to 7 years with special agreement.

The module content as identified in the table below and follows a logical sequence. There are two pre-requisites modules: Contemporary Construction Themes and procurement. You can step off the course after completing any of the modules and join the course again when another module commences.
The full masters award requires 180 credit points, equating to 1800 hours of your study. This is sub-divided into individual modules. Most of the module are 10 credits and of 8 weeks duration. The Postgraduate Skills and Dissertation module will be 60 credits.

Each Level 7 module deals with a particular aspect of project management for construction.

The module development aligns to subject bench marks and professional body requirements. The new University’s new Strategic plan and platform has been incorporated in the module design.

The modules and module content is likely be revised from time to time future to reflect developments within the industry.

Currently there are no option modules available to you in the MSc CPM course, but the course team reserve the right to introduce new modules either as optional additions or substitutions to the courses to accommodate current and future developments within the construction industry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module title</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Credit Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MODULES</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contemporary Construction Themes</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal rights and Responsibilities</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collaborative Working</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Health and Safety</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lean Project Production</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design Appreciation and Planning</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost Studies</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Managing Organisations and People</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Strategy and Finance</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Managing Construction Projects</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post graduate Research Skills and</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
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11. **Admission to the course**

**Entry requirements.**

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the ‘Applying’ tab on the NTU course information web page.

12. **Support for learning**

Support for your learning will take several different formats.

If you want general advice and guidance there is a 24/7 helpline. For more specific advice and guidance there is personal support coordinator available online.

For more specific academic advice through the entire course your course leader is available to contact by e-mail and phone. There will also be a frequently asked questions and response section included in your course page.

Module leaders are available for specific academic support relating to their modules. The support is available by e-mail and phone.

Course tutors will be available on-line to discuss module content and support progression through a module.

A dedicated course administrator will be available to answers questions of general nature, for example relating to Universities systems and processes.

You will also have the opportunity to access academic writing support. This might particularly useful for returners to study and international students.

Whenever the course team are unable to directly answer enquiries or deal with problems themselves, they draw upon the various support services provided by the University for assistance, and will refer you as necessary to those services, including helping you make appointments.

In addition to the above, informal peer support is encouraged.
Inductions

Prior to the course’s commencement an online induction package will be provided to introduce you to the course and the facilities and resources available during your study period with the University. These include study skills and induction sessions with computing services, library and information services, health and safety, student support services, students union, etc. This event also helps to create a team spirit within the courses.

During the online induction period you are provided with copies of or links to the following:

- Introduction to post-graduate study
- Introduction to the course
- Students union introduction
- NTU student handbook
- Course handbook
- Module handbook
- Events and assessment submission
- Health and Safety handbook
- International students welcome pack (where applicable)
- Module details
- Course team contact details
- University student support and guidance service details
- Student support packs from University services such as ITS, LLR and student support services

The subject administrator also plays an important role in the student support and guidance process.

13. Graduate destinations/employability

Many applicants on the distance learning course are employed in a related professional field, either in the public or private sector. However, this course further develops and enhances the qualities and skills desired by prospective employers, above all those of independent critical thought, analysis and evaluation, and self-directed learning. Some of the assessments, including the dissertation, are work related providing real value to employers. In many cases you may appreciate the value and investment that the course offers, particularly with respect to future
career enhancement. Some employers and consultants have participated in the delivery of contemporary issues, ensuring that the course material is current, challenging and leading. In the past graduates have moved from their existing area of work into the role of a project manager.

14. Course standards and quality

**Course management**

The course is managed and quality assured in accordance with the University’s statutes, regulations and provisions. This gives the general operating mechanism for the course including the monitoring process. It explains the responsibilities in connection with the management of the course, the role of the Course Committee and the process of modifying the courses and approval necessary.

Annual monitoring of the course will be undertaken by the Course Leader and a three year review will be undertaken to ensure the curriculum is regularly refreshed.

The Course Leader will use the External Examiner’s reports, module leaders’ reports and student feedback to ensure quality is achieved and maintained.

An on-line Course Committee will be used as part of the quality and standards monitoring process.

**Course Team**

A Course Leader, Subject Administrator and members of the Course Team manage the course on a day-to-day basis.

Module Leaders and/or subject specialists manage their respect modules. Module material is delivered by module tutors.

Module tutors will deliver module material and engage in on-line module support.

The Course Team is supported by dedicated administrative staff. The Course Leader is responsible for the operation and development of the course, in accordance with the decisions of the Course Committee and in accordance with current University Regulations.

**Board of Examiners**

A Board of Examiners is appointed in accordance with University and School policies and normally meets at least once per academic session.
There will be a progression board and eventually an award examination board after each two modules have been completed.

The Board of Examiners and the External Examiner’s reports are described in the University Quality documents.

**Course Committees**

An online Course Committee is responsible for the operational management and coordination of the course at the University. The Course Committees will consider the course with regard to and in accordance with the statutes, regulations and provisions of the University. The composition of the Course Committees shall normally be the Academic Team Leader, Course Leader, the Course team, student representatives, and other nominees in accordance with the statutes, regulations and provisions of the University.

Terms of reference for the Course Committee are that it shall meet after the completed delivery of two modules and will be responsible for the monitoring and development of the course consistent with the procedures of the University. You will be asked to elect two members of your student group to act as course representatives to this committee.

### 15. Assessment regulations

This course is subject to the University’s Common Assessment Regulations (located in Section 16 of the Quality Handbook). Any course specific assessment features are described below:

| None |

### 16. Additional Information

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<th>Collaborative partner(s):</th>
<th>None</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course recognised by:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date this course specification approved:</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any additional information:</td>
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